

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01

AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 AID-20

CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 OMB-01 SWF-02 FEA-02 DRC-01 /231 W

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R 241725Z JUN 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6644

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

RUEHBACXAMEMBASSY CANBERRA 726

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJ: MTN: TNC WORKING GROUP ON NTBS (3B) - IMPORT DOCUMENTATION

1. SUMMARY: NTB GROUP AT SECOND MEETING AT EXPERT LEVEL, JUNE 20-21, CONDUCTED UNFOCUSED AND APATHETIC DISCUSSION ON IMPORT DOCUMENTATION AND AGREED ON TEXT OF DRAFT SECTION OF REPORT TO TNC. END SUMMARY.

2. CANADIAN DEL (PETER CLARK) LED OFF WITH STATEMENT (TO BE CIRCULATED BY GATT SECRETARIAT) CALLING FOR A SYSTEMATIC EXAMINATION OF NTB INVENTORY NOTIFICATIONS AND OTHER COMPLAINTS ON IMPORT DOCUMENTATION AND CUSTOMS PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES. HE CITED FOLLOWING COMPLAINTS AGAINST U.S. AS EXAMPLES OF PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA AND ASKED THAT THESE BE DEALT WITH ON A PRIORITY BASIS: (A) COMPLICATED AND EXCESSIVELY DETAILED U.S. SPECIAL CUSTOMS INVOICE FORM 5515; (B) U.S. REQUIREMENT THAT FURS BE ENTERED AT LIMITED NUMBER OF U.S. PORTS; AND (C) EXCESSIVE DELAYS EXPERIENCED WITH U.S. CUSTOMS CLEARANCE. CANADA ALSO CHARGED THAT CANADIAN EXPORTERS FEEL OBLIGED TO INCUR RESPONSIBILITIES OF IMPORTERS OF RECORD BECAUSE OF COMPLEXITY OF U.S. CUSTOMS PROCEDURES. IN ADDITION, CANADA COMPLAINED ABOUT SEVERE PENALTIES IMPOSED BY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES FOR IMPORT DOCUMENTATION ERRORS.

3. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (KELLY) RESPONDED THAT CANADIAN STATEMENT INCLUDED ISSUES UNRELATED TO WORK ON IMPORT DOCUMENTATION. GROUP DID NOT AGREE WHETHER THESE ISSUES WERE INCLUDED IN ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE.

4. AUSTRALIA SUGGESTED THAT FUTURE WORK FOCUS ON INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR INVOICES AND CUSTOMS ENTRY DOCUMENTS AND BE BASED ON WORK OF CUSTOMS COOPERATION COUNCIL (CCC) AND ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (ECE). HE PROPOSED THAT GROUP IDENTIFY ITEMS WHICH COULD BE HARMONIZED AND RECOMMENDED THAT RESIDUAL ITEMS BE SUBJECT TO CONSULTATIONS IN COURSE OF MTN.

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5. CANADA AND U.S. RECOMMENDED THAT GROUP ENCOURAGE ACCELERATION OF CCC AND ECE WORK ON HARMONIZATION OF DOCUMENTATION. IN PARTICULAR, U.S. PRAISED ECE WORK ON LAY-OUT KEY FOR COMMERCIAL INVOICES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS, CITED THE COUNTRIES WHICH UTILIZE THE KEY, AND URGED OTHERS TO ALIGN THEIR DOCUMENTS WITH THE ECE KEY.

6. EC REPRESENTATIVE (DERISBOURG) POINTED OUT THAT IN ADDITION TO DRAWING UP A POSITIVE LIST OF ESSENTIAL

REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORT DOCUMENTATION, GROUP SHOULD ALSO DRAW UP A NEGATIVE LIST OF ITEMS WHICH SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED ON A PERMANENT OR REGULAR BASIS. ITEMS ON NEGATIVE LIST, HOWEVER, COULD BE REQUIRED ON AN AD HOC BASIS FOR ANTIDUMPING OR COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATIONS. ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN EITHER POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE LIST COULD BE THE SUBJECT OF CONSULTATIONS.

7. EC, CANADA, AND AUSTRALIA NOTED THAT SOME IMPORT DOCUMENTATION PROBLEMS WOULD BE RESOLVED IF CUSTOMS VALUATION PRACTICES WERE HARMONIZED. IN THIS CONNECTION IT WAS NOTED THAT A RECENT DECISION OF THE CCC WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR COUNTRIES NOT APPLYING THE BRUSSELS DEFINITION OF VALUE TO ADOPT IT ON AN FOB BASIS.

8. DRAFT SECTION OF REPORT TO TNC, APPROVED BY GROUP, REFLECTS DISJOINTED NATURE OF DISCUSSION. NEVERTHELESS, TEXT SUGGESTS THAT GENERAL APPROACHES TO SOLUTIONS OF IMPORT DOCUMENTATION PROBLEMS ARE (1) ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES OR PRINCIPLES; (2) ENCOURAGING WORK OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, AND (3) BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON PARTICULAR MEASURES. IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT THESE APPROACHES ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE. IT IS UNCLEAR, HOWEVER, WHAT DIRECTION FUTURE WORK IN THIS AREA WILL TAKE. DALE

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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